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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Analysis of Present and Future Soviet Propaganda Activities Carried on Through the Medium of International Organizations

IN GENERAL

Recent trends in the Soviet propaganda campaign carried on through international organizations, movements, and conferences indicate that the standard stock "peace" theme is being supplemented at a rapidly increasing rate by a variety of cultural and welfare programs designed to appeal to all segments of all societies. The overall tendency of these programs and the manner in which they are being handled indicates a policy of employing positive, offensive tactics actively attacking the United States, as well as the carrying on of the previous campaign extolling the merits of Soviet methods and conditions. The objective lies beyond the point of merely keeping the satellite peoples aligned against us. It is now designed to alienate all peoples which are now friendly to us or allied with us by demonstrating to them our own crassness and defects and the dangers inherent in being susceptible to our influence. This is being hammered home day after day in the most effective manner possible, being driven right into the specialized pressure groups of professional youths, women, students, scholars, publicists, literati, and others. Significantly enough, political considerations, as such, are artfully played down in this process.

In general these cultural and welfare programs are designed to (a) distract the attention of the participants as a diversion from actual analytical consideration of real world issues, (b) heighten the role of Soviet world leadership in cultural, welfare, and spiritual affairs, and (c) portray the United States in the light of cultural sterility and of callousness toward the welfare of individuals within and without the country, in addition to being a promoter of war for purposes of capitalistic gain.

Examples of the various programs are analyzed in more specific detail hereunder.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN

The International Conference in Defense of Children, scheduled to be held 12-16 April 1952 in Vienna under the auspices of an International Sponsoring Committee, is being heralded all over the world. Communist sources report that 26 national committees have been set up and 16 national conferences have been held to popularize the meeting. Present plans contemplate permanent organizational expansion, and 600 delegates, representing 38 countries, are expected to attend. The published brochure points out that the children of today are suffering from the effects of war preparations, that budgets for health and education are being neglected in favor of military expenditures, and that the war situation has reduced colonial countries to a state of famine. It also points out that hundreds of thousands of Korean children have been exterminated during the bombings of civilians in that country or have died there from the effects of the ravages of war. The brochure further states that the Conference will work in a free, objective, and scientific manner to exchange views and examine data in order to decide what can be done to protect the life and health of children threatened by war, to bring up children in a spirit of democratic friendship between all peoples, to protect children from the pernicious influence of immoral literature, films and radio broadcasts, and to insure adequate opportunities for education and development for all children, especially in colonial lands.

There can be scant doubt that this Conference will be a snugly respectable forum in which the "guilt" of the United States will be duly determined from "data" which will be furnished on the death of children in Korea, and adequate censure of the United States will be assessed in the eyes of the civilized world. Moreover, it will doubtless be found, judicially, that the pernicious influence of immoral literature, films, and radio broadcasts has its origin in the United States, which thereby contributes to the delinquency of the children of the world. The findings, minutes, and proceedings of this Conference will be reported back to child welfare associations in all countries, which will represent a tremendous audience of people beyond the usual cliques of indigenous communists and communist sympathizers. Accepting as a foregone conclusion that the populations of satellite countries already are saturated with material of this kind, the real danger lies in the anti-United States effects which will ensue in neutral and allied countries.

RACIAL PROBLEMS EXPLOITED AT MEETINGS

One of the main topics on the agenda for the American Inter-Continental Peace Conference (originally scheduled for Rio de Janeiro

22-27 January

22-27 January 1952; postponed until 11-16 March 1952; postponed indefinitely, but still to be held in some Latin American city) is the indictment that the United States practices genocide against its own citizens of African extraction. The sourcebook of propaganda on this point lies in the Civil Rights Congress document "We Charge Genocide" which was reviewed and discussed at great length by Mr. Paul Robeson at a mass meeting held in New York City on 10 January 1952 in preparation for the American Inter-Continental Peace Conference. The same points have been stressed repeatedly at other regional meetings called as preliminaries to the Conference. Information at hand indicates that this theme will be exploited to the utmost at all future Communist international meetings, particularly those purporting to be of a "welfare" nature. The blatant exploitation of this thesis not only takes fullest advantage of our own difficult racial situation, but also serves as an excellent vehicle to neutralize our themes against the Soviet syndicate on their actual guilt in the perpetration of genocidal policies against subjugated peoples and their familiar cruel practices of class extermination.

Complementing this theme is the charge that we practice discrimination against Caribbean colonials of African descent by our immigration and labor policies. A mass meeting held in New York City on the 2nd of March 1952 was addressed to this proposition, and the speakers reported that such discrimination on our part is being perpetrated at a time when thousands of people of African extraction in the West Indies and in the colonial areas of South America are facing starvation.

MEETINGS COMBINING CULTURE AND WELFARE WITH PEACE THEMES

The term "peace" will continue to be a good drawing card for meetings and rallies and its use as part of the title for such meetings will continue. However, the cultural and welfare propaganda themes will be exploited at the peace conferences and rallies as well as at separate meetings convoked specifically for their consideration. The Australian Youth Carnival for Peace and Friendship, scheduled for Sydney, 15-23 March 1952, is an example of this type of meeting. Another example lies in the British Whitsuntide Youth Peace Festival, sponsored by the British Youth Festival Committee of the International Youth Council (English branch of the World Federation of Democratic Youth), which will be held during the period 31 May - 2 June 1952. The published aim of the Festival is to "win the young people of Britain for the conception that a lasting peace can be won by their united efforts through the establishment of a five-power peace pact."

In spite of

In spite of this peace objective, however, a large portion of the work of the meeting will be devoted to an active attack on the United States, based on its alleged genocidal policy toward the American negro, its collaboration with the colonial powers in exploitation of colonial peoples, its "guilt" against humanity in the Korean war, and its lack of culture. By the time this Festival is held, the resolutions condemning the United States on these points which will stem from the International Conference in Defense of Children, the American Inter-Continental Peace Conference, and other such meetings will be available for review. This in turn will serve as an excellent buildup for the International Conference in Defense of Rights of Youth which will be held sometime in the latter part of 1952, at a place as yet undesignated, under the slogan, "Youth, Unite for the Carrying Out of the Economic and Social Demands of Youth, for the Defense of Peace and Strengthening of Friendship between Peoples." It will also serve the same purpose for such a meeting as the Third Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation, tentatively scheduled for the autumn of 1952, probably in Denmark.

THE CULTURAL CAMPAIGN, AND HOLIDAYS FOR PEACE

As part of the extensive cultural campaign inaugurated by the Soviet group, lists of anniversaries and commemorations of events of cultural significance, birthdays of persons distinguished in the fields of the humanities and arts, and other such landmark dates are being compiled. These include not only lists of such events and personages within the Soviet orbit, but in the free world as well. The purpose is to exploit these by presenting each one against a communist backdrop tending to show the fundamental agelessness and catholicity of the tenets of the creed. For example, Emile Zola's "J'Accuse" papers in the Dreyfuss case were, the party says, an expression which might emanate from the party today; presumably, if Harriet Beecher Stowe were alive today, she would be highly esteemed by the party for her literary efforts on behalf of the American negro in dramatically exposing the cruelties of slavery.

Examples of this activity are found in the plans laid at the November 1951 meeting of the World Peace Council to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Victor Hugo's birth and the 100th anniversary of the death of Nicolai Gogol. They were made, according to the published proclamation of the Council, as a "manifestation of the desire to extend international cultural relations." Both anniversaries fell during this month (March) and were highly publicized by Soviet facilities as demonstrations of Soviet concern for international cultural progress, pointedly contrasted with United States capitalistic preoccupation

with military

with military preparations instead of cultural or humanitarian matters. The works of Hugo and of Gogol were dragged out and re-examined in terms of their pro-Soviet "social significance."

In addition to the plan for international celebrations of important cultural anniversaries promulgated as above stated, arrangements were made for an international cultural exchange program, stressing the exchange of delegations throughout the 1952 vacation period in a plan called "Holidays for Peace."

This pattern was followed by the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students at its meeting held in Budapest 14-18 March 1952, attended by representatives from national student unions, for discussion of the IUS cultural and sports program. Discussion centered around plans initiated at a World Federation of Democratic Youth Executive Committee meeting held at Copenhagen in January which set up an elaborate vacation program for young people during the coming summer including: (1) a Scandinavian Youth Camp at Frederikshavn in North Jutland for Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Danish and Icelandic youth in July; (2) an English Youth Peace Festival in June to which all WFDY organizations are urged to send delegations; (3) the Festival of Peace and Friendship at Sydney, Australia 15-20 March, referred to above; (4) summer vacations in Bulgaria for youth of "capitalist and colonial" countries; (5) International Student Union summer camps in Rumania, Italy, Guatemala, Lebanon and North Africa; (6) summer vacations in East Germany.

At the Copenhagen meeting the Soviet delegate had reported that the USSR had already received over 700 youth delegations since the war, and planned to encourage more.

The IUS Executive Committee meeting in Budapest referred to above called for a ban on the importing of "United States trash literature" and particularly condemned the issue of Collier's Magazine dealing with atomic weapons. This is reminiscent of the action reported by the International Federation of Democratic Women in January 1952 announcing the creation, by the Union of French Women, of an Association for the Dignity of the Women's Press. This association includes organizations, individuals, personalities, newspapers and publications, and it bitterly excoriates literature emanating from the United States and finding its way into the "Marshallized" countries, where it corrupts the minds of girls and women, inciting them to sexuality and prostitution, violates good taste and culture, and degrades girlhood and womanhood. This same type of criticism is extended to American motion pictures, comic books, magazines, books, and literature of every description.

MOSCOW ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

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The Moscow Economic Conference, scheduled to be held in April 1952, has been treated in a very excellent study prepared by Col. [REDACTED] based upon a digest of available information. We wish to call special attention to the Conference here, however, because, from all indications, it represents a departure from the usual run-of-the-mine Soviet-inspired and -dominated conferences in that the very greatest of pains have been taken to portray it as a truly objective and impartial symposium of theoretical and practical experts and businessmen, convened to make an honest analysis of world economic problems. It appears that they are achieving great success in this buildup and it may be expected that there will be present in Moscow a large number of participants who are completely honest and sincere and thoroughly convinced of the apolitical character of the meeting. These factors make this conference a most dangerous one from our point of view because the seeming plausibility will appear to outweigh the true propaganda character of the meeting.

By and large the communist press has not played up this conference with the usual vigor accorded such occasions, wisely choosing to remain silent on the theory that this will allay the suspicions of the respectable people whose attendance is most urgently desired. There have been, however, a few sinister hints in party organs along the line that the conference was in part precipitated by the conditions of economic chaos brought about by the stifling of East-West trade by American command. There have also been seemingly innocuous suggestions that this meeting will be a friendly showdown which will give the West the opportunity to plead the entire cause of western democracy, which, of course, at the very outset, puts us in a most disadvantageous position.

Actually, there is no reason to believe that this meeting will be fundamentally any different from any other communist international conference except that the methods will be more dignified and refined, and therefore more harmful. The really fraudulent character of the Conference as an economic meeting is exposed in Col. Sands' paper referred to above, but the fraud is not too glaringly obvious to a superficial observer, especially one who wants to be fair and see what they have to offer. However, the emergence of the United States' "guilt" for economic domination of the West and disruption of the East will necessarily come into sharp focus in this very carefully controlled "impartial" analysis of world economic defects. Remedies, of course, will suggest themselves from the conference in terms of things which will be beneficial to the economy and security of the Soviet syndicate, beneficial to neutral peoples and to those countries now allied with us, but somehow inimical to the United States alone.

It is very

It is very probable that if the Moscow Economic Conference succeeds as planned, the Soviet gains made thereby will be consolidated and made permanent for continuing exploitation by the establishment of some sort of continuations committee or organization created for the purpose of calling similar meetings in the future on a periodic basis.

CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS HIGH COMMAND

The resignation of the longtime and powerful leader of the IUS, Josa Grohmann, announced at the meeting in Budapest this month, coupled with the designation of Bernard Bereanu as his successor, portends in my opinion a stiffer, more positive anti-American policy in communist-dominated international student circles than ever before. Grohmann has distinguished himself as a very able and effective leader, but he has, among other attributes of background, many years of residence in the United States which he used advantageously in movements pretending to be of a compromise or conciliatory nature. His successor, Bereanu, on the other hand, is known to be a thoroughly disagreeable, bitterly effective, and anti-American leader, probably much better qualified for an all-out campaign of positive action against the United States than was Grohmann. It may be expected that the IUS will henceforth be used as a more effective weapon directly against us, attacking and embarrassing us at every turn. It may also be expected that this will hold true in the youth field as well, in view of the close affinity of management and policy and the interlocking directorate affiliating the IUS with the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

REVIVAL OF RUSSIAN SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

You no doubt recall my memorandum of 22 January 1952, Subject: Trends in Russian Psychological Warfare Planning Indicated by Visit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Niemoller to the Patriarch of Moscow, 2-7 January 1952, TS #68169, in which I traced the downfall of organized religion in Russia, its period of almost total eclipse, and its recent revival under state domination. I predicted at the time that the visit of Dr. Niemoller to Moscow, where he spent five days as the guest of the Patriarch of Moscow and preached from Russian pulpits, presaged a campaign on the part of the Russians, through a hoped-for ecumenical agreement between the Russian Orthodox and German Evangelical Churches, which would gain the admission of the Russian Orthodox Church to membership on the World Council of Churches. I analyzed the consequences of such a move in some detail in the memorandum referred to above.

Information

Information which has come to hand since that time indicates that a Soviet plan to create an East German State Church, headed by Dr. Niemöller, did in fact emerge, but that it did not materialize successfully for the reason that it became doubtful that he would lend himself to the creation of such an organization. However, this whole situation has caused difficulty in German church and public circles in the matter of remilitarization, to the point where the ousting of Dr. Niemöller from the Lutheran Church Council is considered imminent in certain informed quarters.


In spite of these facts, however, Dr. Niemöller is still of great potential value to the Soviet group because of his attitude and utterances and is still under active consideration for whatever use they can make of him, unwitting or otherwise. For instance, after returning from Moscow he stated in a speech at Frankfurt that the church in the U.S.S.R. is free and is a "powerful factor for the preservation of peace." He also emphasized the "moral and spiritual purity of Soviet youth."

Consideration must be given to the fact that in such countries as Hungary, for example, the organized Protestant faiths have been completely subjugated and all positions of spiritual leadership are now filled by churchmen dedicated to the Soviet regime whose teachings naturally reflect the spiritual leadership of Moscow in toto. This is less true of the Roman Catholic Church, although serious inroads also have been made in it through physical removal of the churchmen and substituting for them Moscow-dominated ecclesiastics.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The foregoing examples of various types of Soviet programs currently being carried on shows (a) the extremely high degree of utilization which the U.S.S.R. makes of international organizations, movements, and groups, and of their conferences and publications, and (b) the large amounts of money and effort which they expend in dominating and using such international organizations, movements, and groups.

In view of the fact that all signs indicate that they will make even greater use of such organizations in the future, and that the character of such use will become even more intense in its effectiveness against the United States and the position of the United States



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